

ABSTRACT

A device for separating fluid from a biologic sample when the sample has a fluid and non-fluid component. The device is a point-of-care device through which data may be electronically collected and electronically transmitted for further evaluation. A method for separating fluid from a biologic sample is provided wherein the method comprises the step of bringing the fluid sample in fluid contact with the microspheres such that the fluid component moves by capillary action between the microspheres along capillary channels formed by the spaces between the spheres and leaving, for example, a cellular fraction behind. In the device of the present invention, the step of separating the fluid may be combined with other assay techniques for detecting and/or measuring one or more analytes which may be present in the fluid sample such as immunoassays and chromatographic assays. These may be further combined with groups of microspheres for use in the analyte detection step as well as the separation step whereby the microspheres act as labels for the analyte or as a source of label for the analyte.